

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1242

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INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 2085

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: NAC APPROVES GUIDANCE TO AHG ON LEGAL AND PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF THE COMMON CEILING CONCEPT

REF: (A) USNATO 2040 DTG 141815Z APR 75; (B) MBFR VIENNA

16; (C) USNATO 1899 DTG 081610Z APR 75

1. THE NAC ON APRIL 16, APPROVED THE GUIDANCE TO THE AHG ON LEGAL AND PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF THE COMMON CEILING CONCEPT AS AGREED BY SPC (REF A). HOWEVER, FISCHBACH (LUXEMBOURG) NOTED THE REFERENCE IN PARA A OF THE GUIDANCE TO THE ALL PARTICIPANTS COMMITMENT. HE

STATED THAT LUXEMBOURG'S POSITION WAS THAT LUXEMBOURG WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN MBFR REDUCTIONS UNLESS ITS NON-PARTICIPATION WOULD ENDANGER THE SUCCESS OF THE NEGOTIATION. HE ADDED THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND THE EASTERN EUROPEANS ALREADY ACCEPTED LUXEMBOURG'S NON-PARTICIPATION. THEREFORE HE PROPOSED TO ADD A FOOT-NOTE TO PARA A OF THE GUIDANCE AS FOLLOWS:

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THE LUXEMBOURG EXCEPTION REMAINS VALID IN ACCORDANCE WITH 2 JULY

1974 ADDENDUM TO C-M (74) 30 REVISED. THE NAC AGREED TO THIS FOOTNOTE.

2. DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM), WHILE NOTING BELGIUM'S AGREEMENT TO THE GUIDANCE, SAID HIS GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED IT IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE EXAMINING WITHIN THE ALLIANCE THE COMMON CEILING CONCEPT. HE NOTED THAT BELGIUM HAD MADE A CONTRIBUTION TO THIS FUTURE EFFORT BY THE TREATY LANGUAGE TEXT WHICH BELGIUM HAD SUBMITTED IN THE SPC.

3. COMMENT: FISCHBACK'S STATEMENT APPEARS TO REPRESENT A QUALIFICATION TO LUXEMBOURG'S POSITION REGARDING PHASE II REDUCTIONS. REF B REPORTED THAT THORN HAD AGREED THAT LUXEMBOURG COULD JOIN THE OTHER NON-U.S. WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN PHASE II REDUCTIONS. LUXEMBOURG REP IN SPC ON APRIL 7 STATED THAT HIS COUNTRY IS READY TO PARTICIPATE IN MBFR REDUCTIONS (REF C). HOWEVER, JUST PRIOR TO TODAY'S NAC MEETING, LUXEMBOURG REP ON SPC TOLD INTERNATIONAL STAFF THAT HE HAD NOT PROPERLY QUALIFIED LUXEMBOURG'S POSITION. HENCE FISCHBACH WOULD HAVE TO REQUEST THE FOOTNOTE MAKING THIS QUALIFICATION CLEAR.
BRUCE

SECRET

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